

population, the prevalence of malnutrition in children in Maharashtra is as follows:—

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| Mild | 23.9% |
| Moderate | 58.8% |
| Severe | 14.8% |

(c) and (d) Various measures adopted by the Government to improve the nutritional status of the population are:—

- Increased agricultural production
- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income-generating schemes;
- Availability of essential food items at subsidised cost through public distribution system;
- Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding;
- Supplementary feeding programmes *viz.*
 - (i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme; (ii) Special Nutrition Programme (SNP); (iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP); (iv) Wheat based Supplementary Nutrition Programme; (v) Mid-day Meal Programme.
- Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY)
- Programmes for Prevention of specific nutrient deficiency disorders such as National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme; and Prophylaxis Programme to prevent Blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and Nutrition Anaemia due to Iron Deficiency as a part of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme. Pilot Project for control of micronutrient malnutrition is also under implementation.

Brain Fever in Andhra Pradesh

1543. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to control the Japanese Encephalitis (JE), popularly known as brain fever in Andhra Pradesh, Government have formulated any action plan for mass JE vaccination of high risk groups particularly during inter-epidemic periods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take to contain the dreaded JE in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh is reported to have developed Action Plan for tackling Japanese Encephalitis (JE) problem, including vaccination, with the help of experts from International Vaccine Institute, Seoul, Korea. For containment of JE in the State, the following measures are being undertaken:—

- Vaccination of high risk population group.
- Vector control by indoor residual spray and anti-larval operations and fogging with Malathion.
- Early diagnosis and proper management of patients.
- Isolation of pigs from human population.
- Intensification of IEC activities.

Free/Cheap Medicines to AIDS Patients

1544. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present recorded cases of HIV positive in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to high cost of medicines, the detected patients are not able to take it;

(c) whether there is any proposal with Government to provide such medicines at a cheaper rate or to provide free of cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Based on Sentinel Surveillance data, it is estimated that 3.86 million people in the country are infected with HIV.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The Government provides free treatment for opportunistic infections to HIV/AIDS patients in public sector hospitals.